

Summary ISWP and AgWTF Reports



Key points related to
ag dominated water
bodies

Two Distinct Documents

- Inland Surface Water Plan (ISWP)
 - Central Valley Water Board Report (1992)
- Ag Water Task Force Report (AgWTF)
 - Public Advisory Task Force reporting to the State Water Board (Chapter 4, 1995)

Inland Surface Water Plan

- Statewide plan adopted in 1991
 - Satisfied Federal CWA to adopt water quality objectives
 - Covered ALL surface water bodies
 - Set out program of implementation for agriculture
 - Natural water bodies dominated by agricultural return flows
 - Constructed agricultural drains
 - Six year schedule based on water body type

Water Body Category	What Applies Upon Adoption	What Applies within 6-yrs or less
(b) Water Bodies Dominated by Agricultural Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All narrative Water Quality Objectives ✓ All toxicity objectives ✓ Numerical Objectives Apply as Performance Goals for Purposes of Regulating Agricultural Drainage Discharges and Other NonPoint Sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All Numerical Objectives in the Plan or Alternate Site-Specific Objectives Established by the Central Valley Regional Board
(c) Constructed Agricultural Drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All narrative Water Quality Objectives ✓ All toxicity objectives ✓ Numerical Objectives Apply as Performance Goals for Purposes of Regulating Agricultural Drainage Discharges and Other NonPoint Sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Initial Performance Goals apply or Alternate Site-specific Performance Goals Established by the Central Valley Regional Board

Inland Surface Water Plan

Regional Water Board Reports Due to State Board 1992

1. ID ag dominated natural and constructed water bodies
2. Prioritize water bodies based on where water quality problems may occur
3. ID which numerical objectives inappropriate for the water bodies based on available data
4. Submit to State Board for approval

Central Valley Water Board

Actions to Comply

- Coordinated information from water agencies
 - ◆ 700-agencies contacted by mail
 - ◆ 60-area meetings
 - ◆ Over 350 reports covering over 90% of Central Valley irrigated agriculture
- Defined Drainage Basins
- Identified Categories of Water Bodies

HYDROBASIN INDEX

Figure 1

Location of Drainage Basins within the Central Valley, California for the Inland Surface Waters Plan.



- 4 Tehama
- 8 Enterprise Flat-Lower Cottonwood
- 10 North Delta
- 11 Valley Putah-Cacne
- 15 Marysville
- 19 Valley-American
- 20A Colusa
- 20B Butte
- 20C Sutter Bypass
- 20D Sycamore-Sutter
- 32 East of the Delta
- 35A Turlock
- 35B Merced
- 40 Westside San Joaquin River
- 41 Grasslands
- 44A Central Delta
- 44B West of the Delta
- 44C South Delta
- 45 San Joaquin Valley Floor
- 51A Kings River
- 51B Westside
- 57 Kern River
- 58A Kaweah River
- 58B Tule River
- 58C Poso
- 58D Tulare Lake

Categorized Ag Dominated Water Bodies

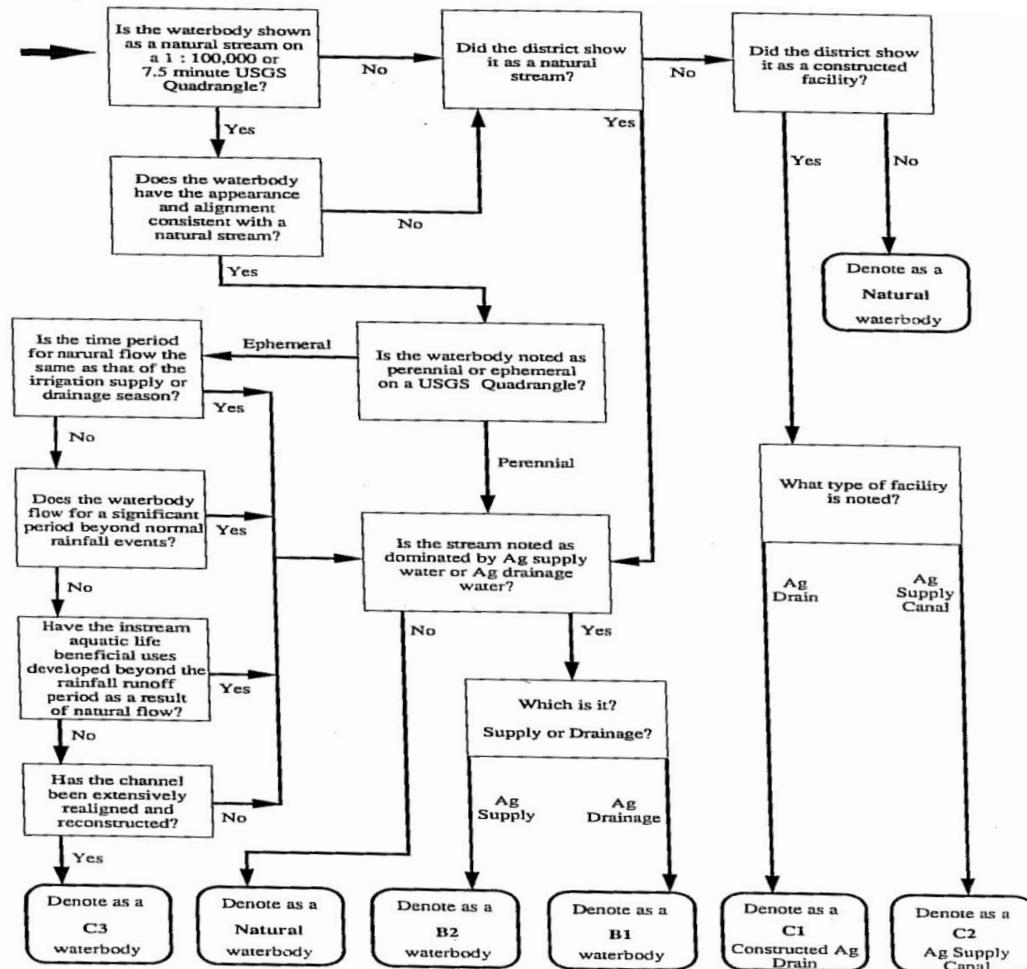
B: Ag dominated natural water bodies

- ◆ B1: dominated by ag drainage
- ◆ B2: dominated by ag supply water

C: Ag dominated constructed

- ◆ C1: designed to carry ag drainage
- ◆ C2: designed to carry irrigation water and/or recycled return flows
- ◆ C3: Reconstructed natural to carry ag supply and/or return flow

Flowchart for the Categorization of Water Bodies According to the Guidelines of the California Inland Surface Water Plan



Drainage Area	# Agency Reports	Category (b)		Category (c)	
		#	Miles	#	Miles
Sacramento	93	68	541	2485	5160
San Joaquin	63	46	538	1715	4689
Delta	70	13	126	789	1548
Tulare Lake	109	28	268	1068	6460
Foothills	24	5	39	234	661
Area Subtotal:	359	160	1512	6291	18519
Major Waterways	5	0	0	28	1293
Total:	364	160	1512	6319	19812

Established Priority List

- Ranked 1 to 5 (with 1 as highest)
 - Magnitude of existing beneficial use
 - Water body size (length)
 - Flow (perennial vs. intermittent and volume)
 - Degree of beneficial use impairment
 - Degree of threat to downstream water body
- Almost all were in lowest rank

Identified Inappropriate Numerical Objectives

- Utilized known problems to identify potentially inappropriate objectives
 - Elevated selenium (geographically)
 - Elevated boron and TDS
 - Total trace elements and pesticides attached to sediment
 - Pesticides related to cropping practices
 - Maintenance activities (physical and chemical)
 - Noted inflows from urban areas

What Happened?

- Central Valley Water Board Report submitted in 1992
 - Focused monitoring within Drainage Basins initiated
- ISWP rescinded in 1994
- State Water Board convened Public Advisory Task Forces 1994

Public Advisory Task Forces

- Purpose: Address issues identified in 1991 ISWP
- Eight Task Forces
 1. Chemical-Specific Objectives
 2. Site-Specific Objectives
 3. Toxicity Objectives
 4. **Agricultural Waters**
 5. Effluent-Dependent Water Bodies
 6. Permitting and Compliance Issues
 7. Watershed
 8. Economic Considerations

Ag Water Task Force (AgWTF)

■ Representatives

1. Publicly owned treatment works
2. Stormwater
3. Industry
4. Agriculture
5. Water Supply
6. Environmental
7. Public health
8. USEPA
9. Fish and Wildlife
10. Regional Water Boards
11. State Water Board

Special Additions:

- CA Department of Food and Agriculture
- CA Department of Pesticide Regulation

AgWTF: Dec. 1994 – Nov. 1995

Goal

- ◆ *“Develop recommendations for the SWRCB regarding how to provide reasonable protection for beneficial uses of agricultural waters. Throughout the process of developing recommendations, the Task Force will consider economics, consistency vs. flexibility, and the interface with issues being addressed by the other task forces.”*

AgWTF: Dec. 1994 – Nov. 1995

Overall agreement throughout process

- ◆ *“Agricultural water bodies are unique and they may not support full beneficial uses traditionally associated with perennial, natural streams.”*



AgWTF: Dec. 1994 – Nov. 1995

- Chapter 4 of Final Report
 - ◆ Definitions
 - ◆ Exemptions from Water Quality Objectives
 - ◆ Categorization of Water Bodies
 - Flow Charts
 - ◆ Beneficial Use Designations
 - ◆ Water Quality Objectives
 - ◆ Implementation
 - ◆ Other Policy Issues
 - ❖ Appendices
 - ❖ List of Issues
 - ❖ Draft Implementation Plan

AgWTF: Dec. 1994 – Nov. 1995

- Working Definitions
- Consensus Recommendations (21)
 - Many related to need for statewide guidance
- Options
 - Reasoning
 - Concerns
- Overarching Policy Issues

AgWTF: Dec. 1994 – Nov. 1995

■ Overarching Policy Issues

1. Incorporate Existing Basin Plan Site Specific Objectives into updated ISWP
2. Water Conservation Clause
3. Clarification of Term “Existing”
4. Net Environmental Benefit
5. Protocols for Toxicity Monitoring
6. Economic Considerations

What Happened?

- Public Advisory Task Forces Provided Final Report at State Water Resources Control Board Workshop in November 1995
- Revised Statewide ISWP Not Developed
- USEPA Promulgated California Toxics Rule (CTR) in May 2000
- Identified Issues Continue

Today

- Adopted Triennial Review Workplan Identified Two Related Issues
 1. Evaluate MUN designation in constructed ag drains
 2. Determine appropriate beneficial uses and level of protection for agriculturally dominated water bodies
- CV-SALTS identified need for appropriate beneficial uses and protection in ag dominated water bodies as related to salt and nitrate

Today

- Opportunity to Address Unresolved Issues
 - ◆ Build off of previous work of ISWP and AgWTF
 - Update addressing additional constraints from lawsuits since 1995
 - Complete some of the components previously directed to the State Water Board
 - Develop recommendation for a Basin Plan Amendment that designates appropriate beneficial uses and level of protection for agriculturally dominated water bodies in the Central Valley

Next Steps

- Agreement to build off of previous work
- Review previous consensus recommendations
 - Identify where continuing consensus
 - Identify items needing further discussion
- Review Categories of Water Bodies
 - Flowcharts
- Develop future meeting schedules based on outcome of above discussions